BIOS

Alberta Society of Professional Biologists • Spring 2009

Volume 24 • Number 1

ASPB 2009 Conference and Annual General Meeting

April 15 and 16, 2009

KEEPING PACE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Alberta Society of Professional Biologists' 2009 Conference

ASPB conference is held at:

Calgary ZOO
Safari Room
Calgary, Alberta

For more information visit our website at www.aspb.ab.ca

Logo Contest Winner

Congratulations to Chris Stoesz and co-designer Lesia Anderson of Matrix Solutions Inc. for the winning ASPB 2009 Conference Logo. Chris has been awarded free registration to the conference.

Online Registration Now Available

Your Chance to Contribute to the ASPB Conference

Do more than just attend the conference, contribute to it! As part of the Program Handout, we will be including a compendium of recent regulatory changes that affect biologists, complete with website or contact links. Unfortunately, this list will be only as complete as the information we are sent by you! Please send all recent policy and regulatory changes and updates to Meighan Kearns at Meighan_Kearns@golder.com or to the Editor of BIOS Linda Zimmerling at lindazim@shaw.ca.

Your contributions will make the 2009 ASPB Conference Program Handout a valuable resource.

In This Issue

ASPB 2009 Conference and Annual General Meeting 1
Logo Contest Winner 1
Your Chance to Contribute to the ASPB Conference 1
ASPB Scholarship News 2
A Look Back at Robert Holland 3
Interview with a Biologist 4
Spiders that Escape by Cart-Wheeling 5
Spring Into Action with ASPB's New Discussion Forum 6
A View from Outside the BIOS Sphere 6
ASPB Welcomes Its Newest Members 7
Upcoming Events 8
Why Publish and Article in BIOS 8
Announcements/Updates 8
Articles Worth Sharing 8

Alberta Society of Professional Biologists
P.O. Box 21104
Edmonton, Alberta
T6R 2V4
Tel: (780) 434-5765
Fax: (780) 413-0076
E-mail: pbiol@aspb.ab.ca
http://www.aspb.ab.ca

President
Carol Engstrom (403) 298-7044

President Elect
Peter May (403) 279-1173

Secretary
Monica Brightwell (403) 543-5353

Treasurer
Gary Ash (780) 930-8666

Past President
Vacant

Director
Corey De La Mare (780) 930-8633

Director
Henri de Pennart (403) 237-7274

Director
Gerry Haekel (780) 427-4767

Director
Kerri Charest (780) 433-2522

Director
Sylvia Taylor (403) 292-5630

Director
Laurie Hamilton (403) 483-2476

Public Member
David McInnes (780) 423-7651

Registrar
Bette Beswick (403) 299-5614

Executive Director
Robin Leech (780) 452-1311

Professional Development (Calgary)
Laura Roberts (403) 283-5477

Professional Development (Edmonton)
Angela Holzapfel (780) 483-3499

Communications
Kristen Foreman (403) 538-5708

Discipline
Brian Bietz (403) 259-6571

BIOS Editor
Linda Zimmerling (780) 906-9007

Association & Event Coordinator
Joy Sager (780) 434-5765

Membership Coordinator
Shauna Prokopchuk (780) 434-5765

BIOS is published for the enjoyment and benefit of the members of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists and those interested in the field of professional biology. Articles or comments are welcomed and should be sent to the editor, Linda Zimmerling at lindazim@shaw.ca.

ASPB Scholarship News

by Robin Leech, P. Biol.

University of Alberta 2008 ASPB Endowment Scholarship Recipient

As promised in the December 2008 issue of BIOS, here is a brief bio on Rebecca Rooney, the University of Alberta 2008 Scholarship recipient.

Rebecca completed her Honours BSc in Environmental Science at Carleton University in 2003, and her MSc at the University of Manitoba in Entomology in 2006. She is currently in her second year of her PhD at the University of Alberta in Biological Sciences in the Ecology Research Interest Group. She passed her candidacy exams on March 23rd, but when time allows, she volunteers at the University radio station CJSR for the environmental news and events program Terra Informa.

Rebecca is a T.A. for an experimental design and univariate statistics course for upper year undergrads and early graduate students. To relax, a favourite hobby is fixing bicycles. So far she has a three-speed, a fixed gear, a coaster bike, a road bike, a steel-frame mountain bike, and a low-rider (just for fun). She also volunteers for Edmonton Bicycle Commuters in the summer when not sampling wetlands. In winter, she does a lot of yoga.

In terms of the future, she hopes to finish her PhD, publish some papers, and find a post-doctorate somewhere. She thoroughly enjoys being a T.A. and would like to remain in academia in some capacity.

University of Lethbridge 2008/09 ASPB Endowment Scholarship Recipients

This past 22 December, ASPB was informed that the University of Lethbridge awarded our ASPB Endowment Scholarship for 2008/09 to two MSc students in Biological Sciences, Shilo Andrews and John Thibault. Here is a brief bio for each.

Shilo Andrews, B.I.T., grew up on a farm near Vulcan, Alberta, then went to the University of Calgary for her BSc in Ecology. After graduating, she worked for 5 years before starting her MSc at the University of Lethbridge with Dr Lawrence Flanagan.

During that 5-year break, she worked mostly as a conservation technologist for Vulcan County. During the last year she worked for a small consulting firm where she worked on watersheds.

Her MSc thesis is on Douglas fir and lodgepole pine in southwestern Alberta: do they depend on snow melt or spring-summer precipitation? Further, she wants to know what affect the water use has on tree ecophysiology function.

Shilo said she is very surprised to receive the scholarship but is very grateful. She is looking forward to a career in biology, and wants to work with trees.

****

John Thibault was born, raised and educated in Lethbridge, including his BSc and MSc. Between his bachelor's and master's degrees, he took a couple of years out to travel extensively in Europe.

His MSc thesis is on Phosphatase from *Pseudomonas syringae* Hop AO1. He is studying the bacterial effects of this enzyme that effectively inhibits host plant immune response. He is studying with Dr Brent Selinger, who is a mix of microbiologist-enzymologist-biochemist, all rolled into one.

John plans on coming north to the University of Alberta in the spring of 2010 to start his PhD with Dr Barry in Medical Microbiology. Thesis topic will be in the areas of viruses and their effects on mammals.

A Look Back at our Friend Robert (Bob) Holland

Bob bird banding September 2008. Photo credit: Anna Daku

Together we mourn the loss of Robert (Bob) Holland, a Past President of the ASPB

Robert (Bob) Thomas Holland died suddenly at home in Edmonton, Alberta on January 7, 2009. Born in Newfoundland in 1954, he was raised there and in New Brunswick where he graduated with a BSC (Biology) from the Universities of New Brunswick (Fredericton) and Maine (Orono). While at the University of New Brunswick he took part in one of the first closed system salmon aquaculture programs in Canada using waste heat from the university heat plant, experience he put to good use in 1997 when he spearheaded a pilot project to raise eels in a closed system in New Brunswick.

After graduating from UNB in 1975, Bob undertook extensive wetland surveys throughout the Atlantic Provinces for their provincial governments and then conducted similar surveys in northern Ontario. This was followed by similar wetland, peat and other biologically centered surveys for the Federal Government in the Northwest Territories and the Arctic. Following this, he returned to UNB and took geological training that led to nearly 6 more years in the Arctic organizing and conducting geological based surveys for a variety of mineral, oil and gas companies.

His time in the north led to many adventures. During one survey, Bob's team returned to base camp to find it flattened by a migrating herd of caribou and most of their equipment destroyed. Rather than giving up, he flew south and in a four day period replaced all the damaged gear and returned to carry on with the assignment. On another survey, he was seriously injured and sewed his own wound up when his co-worker passed out at the sight of blood.

A fascination with computers led Bob back to school where he studied programming and later GIS. In 1992 he moved to British Columbia where he worked as a programmer and in the GIS field in Prince George, Houston and Telkwa. While in BC, Bob loved to hike and he conducted private mineral surveys and staked a number of claims until moving to Alberta in 2003.

In Edmonton, Bob continued to work in the GIS field for companies such as the Forestry Corp., Land Data Technologies Ltd and Spencer Enviromental Management Services. He was a past president of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists.

Bob had a lifelong love of learning which saw him following interests to new career paths throughout his life. He combined this with a love of the outdoors. He was a long time supporter of wild life and wetland conservation with various organizations including Ducks Unlimited and he participated in the Lake Wabamun wildlife cleanup.

Robert is survived by a large, loving family & will be buried in his family's burial plot in Saint John, New Brunswick this summer. Anyone wishing details of the memorial service can contact his brother Paul Holland at paulholland@shaw.ca

Interview with a Biologist: Robin Leech, P. Biol.

by Ngaio Hotte, P. Biol.

About the Biologist

The worst thing you can ever say of yourself is, "I'm bored!"

Robin Leech is a founding member of the ASPB and a Professional Biologist (P. Biol.) who specializes in spiders. His areas of expertise include classification, systematics (taxonomy), biology, faunistics, zoogeography, entomology and arachnology. He has conducted extensive research on spider dispersal by a behaviour known as "ballooning".

Robin got his formal start as a biologist in 1956 when he was hired as a summer student with Agriculture Canada in Aklavik and the Firth River coastal area, Yukon. But Robin's spider and insect studies began at a much earlier age, before he even entered elementary school. He collected butterflies and beetles, and raised mayfly nymphs in aquariums at home. As a child, he accompanied his father, a water beetle specialist, on collecting trips near their home at Vernon in the Okanagan Valley, BC. As the family moved from Canada, to the United States, then back to Canada, Robin's knowledge and interest in water beetles, spiders and insects grew rapidly. He grew to know the names of families of beetles, could recognize beetle families by sight, and could name them - even before he could speak full sentences.

Robin completed his undergraduate studies at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC. During his first year, his passion was divided between herpetology and arachnology. His decision to focus on spiders came during an expedition in Africa in 1957-58 where he collected arthropods and other small fauna. He was fascinated by the spiny orb-weaving spiders (subfamily Gasteracanthinae) that he observed and collected during his field study. The expedition was featured in National Geographic Magazine's March 1961 issue [African Insects]. In 1963, Robin moved to Alberta to study spiders for his Master's thesis.

Among Robin's hobbies are collecting and using high quality binoculars; studying optics in binoculars; visiting, smelling and looking at the great outdoors; teaching firearm safety; reloading cartridges for firearms; hunting; listening to classical music; close-up photography; maintaining a collection of over 75,000 spiders; repairing mechanical wrist watches and railroad pocket watches; and collecting high-quality Leitz stereo microscopes. He is currently in the process of co-authoring an illustrated book on puns. His favourite animals are jumping spiders because of their apparent personality and elaborate courtship and mating activities. Robin will tell you that jumping spiders can become pets very easily. His favourite flowering plants are orchids because of their indescribable beauty, delicateness and responsiveness to even the smallest environmental changes. Robin notes that many tropical orchid species have an obligate commensal relationship with a bee species; if the bee species dies, so does the orchid species - and vice versa.

Changes and Developments in the Field of Biology

Robin has witnessed the field of biology change and grow during his time in Alberta. He has seen the presence of biologists expand from a limited presence in university and government positions to a prevalent force in private consulting firms and industry. In the 1950s and 1960s, few biologists rose through the ranks of the establishment, even in government, to management positions. The profile of biologists began to change in the early 1970s as private consulting firms proliferated and biologists became key experts within private consulting firms and industry. Despite being employed in larger engineering firms and industry, biologists were not allowed to use their name on documents for which they completed work. It was this lack of professional recognition that led a small group of biologists, including Robin, to form the beginnings of the ASPB.

Robin remains affiliated with the ASPB as Executive Director in 2008-2009. Among other developments, Robin would like to see changes in how biologists deal with one another, and collectively with big issue problems, not only in Alberta, but everywhere. It is his firm belief that because biologists do not present united fronts on big issues, or even on small issues, they are not taken seriously by governments, rarely by other PROs, and often not by the public. A biologist working for a government or for a university may see the Athabasca Oil Sands as major environmental problems, but a biologist working for an oil sands company may see everything in terms of making a living and employment. These are polarized views, and expressed differences from each do not offer confidence to other PROs or the public.

He is also concerned about the prospect of future developments in his field because of the lack of value placed on understanding of our natural world by governments and the public. Opportunities for new knowledge are diminishing as vast tracts of land are being destroyed by development even before we can know what flora and fauna live there. Robin is concerned that society seems to have lost those purposes and directions that lead us to want to know things just for the sheer joy of learning and knowing. All of Robin's books, microscopes and collections have been developed using personal funds, rather than public or research funding.

Words of Wisdom

Robin cautions new biologists, "Always try to be positive, but at the same time, realistic. Don't tilt at windmills, but do be ready to get behind causes that will ensure our future. Always be ready to explain to kids about biology and why it is so fascinating. It takes time, lots of time, to do this. Always be keen and alert. The worst thing you can ever say of yourself is, 'I'm bored!'"

Spiders that Escape by Cart-Wheeling

by Robin Leech, P. Biol.

A dune spider, *Carparachne aureoflava* (Sparassidae, the huntsman spider family), escapes predators by wheeling, or rather by cart-wheeling, on the surface of sand dunes (Henschel, 1990). This is one of two species of the genus *Carparachne*, both of which can cart-wheel, and both of which are precinctive to the Namib Desert dunes in Namibia (formerly Southwest Africa). David Attenborough photographed one of these spiders in action in one of his natural history films.

Gould (1983) said that the use of wheels by animals has not yet been reported in the literature. The beating cilia of Rotifera only appear to be wheels, and the stories about looping snakes, rolling pangolins and cart-wheeling baboons are all unconfirmed. Dune spiders, however, transform themselves into wheels, and roll down smooth dune slopes of >15° at speeds from about 0.5 to 1.5 m/s. They can also cart-wheel along on level surfaces if disturbed and if the wind is more than 5 m/s (Henschel, 1990). The spider's body length is about 18 mm (Lawrence, 1966: 13), and the size of the cart-wheel (tibiae-metatarsi joints on one side of the spider to the other side) is about 3.0-3.5 cm (John Irish, pers. comm.).

Why do this? Mainly to escape the predatory female pompilid wasps, which are large wasps that weigh in at 60 mg! Pompilid wasps are specialized spider hunters that feed their progeny on immobilized spiders (Evans, 1953), and are commonly called "spider wasps" for that very reason. [The immobilized spiders are still alive while being eaten by the wasp larvae.] The cart-wheeled behavior occurred when predators or humans excavated them from their burrows, or if they were disturbed while on dune surfaces. The advantages of cart-wheeling are the blurring of the spider's outline, and the leaving of only a faint trail (a wasp can easily follow a running spider's trail!). These features (blurred outline and faint trail) appear to disrupt the wasp's search image. The limitations of cart-wheeling are that escape direction and escape distance depend on topography and wind, but obviously they have worked to the spider's advantage.

Fig. 1 shows the posture of *Carparachne aureoflava* Lawrence, 1966, cart-wheeling downhill from right to left. Only the tibiae-metatarsi leg joints of all legs contact the ground, leaving small impact marks on the sand.

When finding spider burrows, wasps explored the surrounding area, and sometimes entered the burrows. Spiders physically evicted the wasps by striking them with their legs, or by collapsing their own burrow entrances. To reach spiders, wasps excavated up to 300 times their own mass, digging 5-10-L holes to depths of 8-15 cm in 1-2-h on slopes of <15° in order to intercept the spiders' burrows from above (Fig.2).

Spider burrows are quite long, averaging about a half m long, but sometimes up to 1.25 m long, extending at shallow angles (~18°) into loose sand of steep surfaces (~25°). These conditions made most spiders difficult to excavate (Fig.2). Sand instability caused some burrows to collapse, requiring construction of new, short burrows. Further, at any time, about 5% of the spiders were vulnerable to wasp predation because they could be captured by a wasp excavating less than 10 L of sand.

It is possible that the use of wheeling, or cart-wheeling, by animals living in relatively obstacle-free surfaces, such as the Namib Desert dunes, may be more common than is currently known.

In Alberta, we have a large lycosid spider, *Geolycosa missouriensis*, which digs holes in the sand dunes of southeastern and central Alberta, and then lines the holes with silk. It is likely a prey of one or more species of pompilid wasps in Alberta, but we know nothing of the prey of pompilid predators in Alberta, or of the predation rate on this spider by wasps or other predators (R.Leech, pers. obs.). It would be a good Master's thesis for someone.

Acknowledgements

Johannes and Inge Henschel are thanked for permission to use the figures from the original article, and for providing information about the spider. John Irish of the Gogabeb Training and Research Centre, Walvis Bay, Namibia, is thanked for references and for checking on the size of the "cartwheel" of this spider. Lori Mendel and Yael Lubin of Israel are thanked for helping find Johannes Henschel's email address, as are Pat Craven of Namibia and Ken Kinman of Kansas, USA. Peter Kuchar of Edmonton, Alberta, is thanked for drawing my attention to the article by Henschel.

References

Evans HE. 1953. Comparative ethology and the systematics of spider wasps. Systematic Zoology 2: 155-172.

Gould SJ. 1983. Kingdoms without wheels. IN: (Gould, SJ, Editor) Hen's Teeth and Horse's Toes (p.158-165). Pelican Books, Harmondsworth.

Henschel JR. 1990. Spiders wheel to escape. South African Journal of Science 86: 151-152, 2 figs.

Lawrence RF. 1966. New dune spiders (Sparassidae) from the Namib desert, South West Africa. Cimbebasia 217: 3-15.

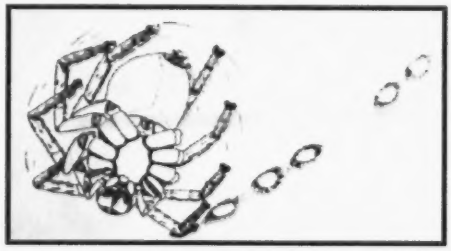

Fig. 1. Ventral view of the posture of *Carparachne aureoflava* wheeling downhill from right to left. The tibiae-metatari leg joints of all 8 legs contact the ground, leaving small impact marks in the sand.

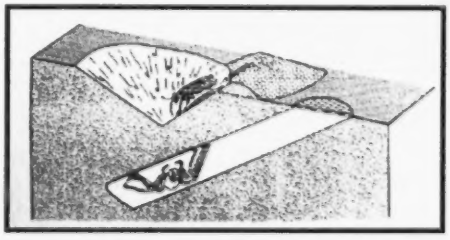

Fig. 2. Schematic representation of a pompilid wasp digging a *Carparachne aureoflava* from its burrow. Excavating spiders is more difficult in steeply sloping, loose sand.

Spring Into Action with ASPB's New Discussion Forum Launch

by Crystal Kessler

What's new in the ASPB you ask? Spring isn't the only thing creating new beginnings; the ASPB's communications is undergoing a metamorphosis of its own. By April 2009, a brand new Discussion Forum will be set up for all members to participate and communicate within. Volunteer Committee member, Linda Zimmerling, explains that the idea of the Discussion Forum has been buzzing around the member base for a while now. Linda's experience when using the Association of Professional Biologists of British Columbia's BioServe forum sparked all the things she would do differently. She says, "Some of these topics are fascinating, so I wanted to know if there was a way to access an immediate link to topics of interest," in response to the problem of mass amounts of incoming emails to member inboxes. Her observations, along with the committee's input, have helped create a user-friendly, non-spamming system for ASPB members to use this spring.

Photo: Paper butterfly in a book's crease. (Courtesy of flickr™)

Multiple communication outlet possibilities were debated including the popular Facebook® site. In the end the Discussion Forum prevailed because of its member-targeted and topic-specific goals. Members will have access to the Forum through the organization's website and will use his or her login name and password to participate. Before the launch is complete, the ASPB committee is looking for a volunteer to be a moderator. "The volunteer would be in charge of monitoring discussions, making sure nothing said is abusive, discriminatory or incriminating. We want the line of discussion to remain professional," says Linda.

Any ASPB members interested in being a Discussion Forum moderator should contact Kristen Foreman at kforeman@teraenv.com.

"The ASPB's Communication program is undergoing a metamorphosis of its own this spring"

A View from Outside the BIOS Sphere

by Crystal Kessler

Biologists are continuously in tune with the outside world, but how in tune is the outside world with biologists? Public relations practitioner Steven Hodges gives the ASPB insight about how the organization might be viewed from a non-biologist's point of view. He also renders his expertise on his perspective of the organization from the eye of a professional in the PR industry.

From outside the organization, Steven's first impression is positive, with respect to the website's easy to navigate layout and the compilation of newsletters available. He gives most praise to the ASPB's logo design, saying, "The logo embodies the flora and fauna of Alberta. I would expect nothing less from the organization." Given the opportunity, he would add more visuals to the website and newsletter to allure readers. Putting his PR hat on Steven says, "There needs to be exposure events to show Albertans what the ASPB is all about," as he explains how to engage the Alberta public in the organization's goals and objectives.

Steven mentions that within the PR industry, approachability from target audiences is essential to a professional organization. When asked if the ASPB is an approachable organization to the Alberta public Steven replies, "It's not approachable in the sense that the organization is not in the public's conscience. No one is aware of its existence."

Apart from a few kinks, Steven Hodges commends the ASPB on its website accomplishments thanks to the straight forward design. The most important advice Steven gives: "Plan events that impact the long term sustainability of the organization using venues like the zoo, for example, to encourage public interest in what the ASPB does."

"Biologists are continuously in tune with the outside world, but how in tune is the outside world with biologists?

Photo: Rawson Lake, Alberta (Courtesy of Crystal Kessler)
A view from the top of Mount Sarrail after hiking up Rawson Lake Trail in Alberta.

ASPB Welcomes Its Newest Members

APPLICANT APPROVED AS PROFESSIONAL BIOLOGIST

Natasha Adam
Ademola Adeyemi
Peter Aku
David Almanza
Dustin Bailey
Mehran Bakhtiari
Ngaio Baril
Jeffrey Bertoia
Dana Blouin
Calum Bonnington
Amanda Bordero
Monica Brightwell
Karen Brown
Myles Brown
Julia Burkart
George Carlson
Aleta Corbett
Tanya Debroux
Ian Emmerson
Amy Folden
Maria Foote
Kurtis Fouquette
Melissa Froese
Kristy Garnet
Lianne Germaine
Jamie-Lynn Greter
David Hayman
Suzanne Henderson
Tiffany Hnatiuk
Jonathon Hornung
Ngaio Hotte
Kathryn Illian
Tara Jamison
Edyta Jasinska
Cindy Kemper
Carla Koenig
Victor Lapido
Elaine Lee Ho
Lisa Levez
Kei Lo
Fern Maas
Margaret Marra
Katherine Maxcy
Nancy Mayo
Sarah McLean
Grace Mitchell
Melissa Moss
Kalina Noel
Michelle Pask
Luanne Patterson
Jacquelyn Redburn
Donald Reid
Carla Reynolds
Cassandra Roberge
Roger Royer
Michael Sanderman
David Sare
Charles Shewan
Lorrie Sielski
Jan Simonson
Michael Simpson
Callie Smith
Danielle Spears
Robert St. Clair
Shannon Taggart
Ryan Taylor
Michael Undershultz
Kristen Vinke

APPLICANT APPROVED AS BIOLOGIST IN TRAINING

Scott Ballantyne
Andrea Barrera
Alison Beal
Christopher Clemens
Michael Climie
Dallas Demontigny
Jeremy Demytruk
Scarlett Dixon
Lydia du Toit
Caylee Dyck
Jessica Eustace
Courtney Frederikson
Jeremy Freeman
Clinton Gellrich
Devin Goodsman
Serena Hohlbein
Meagan Kessler
Matthew Koehli
Morgan Lee
Sunita LeGallou
Charles MacMichael
Laura MacPherson
Amy McLenaghan
Kathryn Milne
Agata Nowak
Cynthia Ouelett
Lindsey Parker
Naomi Parker
Jessica Penno
Amanda Scott
Rae Lynn Spencer
Natisha Stashko
Riley Swendseid
Joel Tiedermann
Deborah Leah Timmons
Marsha Van Den Enden
Lindsay Watson

APPLICANT APPROVED AS STUDENT BIOLOGISTS

Tara Bernat
Laura Hamilton

Did You Know?

The ASPB currently has 846 members:

661	Full members
126	B.I.T. members
22	Student members
19	Temporarily withdrawn members
11	Associated members
6	Honorary members
1	Public member

There are 207,925 Canadians with Bachelor's Degrees in the physical and life sciences sector.

As of November 2008, the ASPB has created a Communications Committee to facilitate interaction between ASPB members. The committee's goal is to efficiently manage communications within the organization and effectively use the decision making process to further the objectives of the organization as a whole.

Upcoming Events

Please note: details regarding these events can be viewed on the ASPB website at http://www.aspb.ab.ca/bios

April 2, 2009 Brown bag lunch: Human effects on wolves, elk, cattle, bighorn sheep and forage. Thursday 12:00 to 1:00 PM Conf. Rm A Husky Energy Bldg Calgary AB

April 5-8, 2009 Canadian Water Resources Association Alberta Branch Conference
Water and Energy: Fact, Fiction and Trade-offs. Lethbridge AB

April 15 and 16, 2009 ASPB Conference and Annual General Meeting Calgary AB

April 25, 2009 Fragments of the Parkland ANPC Workshop Edmonton, AB

April 26, 2009 Adopt-a-Plant Alberta's Northern Workshop Edmonton AB

May 7-9, 2009 Eco-Conference Calgary AB

May 11-14, 2009 5th National Conference for Non Point Source & Stormwater Outreach.

May 20-22, 2009 Sustainable Communities Conference Cochrane AB.

May 26 and 27, 2009 Ecological Approach to Invasive Plant Management Revelstoke BC

May 28 and 29, 2009 Conserving Wetlands in British Columbia Revelstoke BC

Why Publish and Article in BIOS

You're doing earth-changing work, and you need to share it with the world!
You're tired of reading one-sided and often misguided viewpoints in popular mediums and you want to present a more objective viewpoint with some science behind it!
You desire to share important information with fellow professionals.
You need to pose questions or seek advice from fellow professionals.
You have a great story to tell, and a photo to go with it.
You have a burning desire to see your name in print.
You will earn professional development (PD) credits.
You could win a prize!

Did you know every person who has an article published in BIOS will earn a PD credit, and will be entered into a draw to win ASPB swag? Don't delay, submit your article today! Summer 2009 edition submission deadline is 15 June 2009.

Articles Worth Sharing

Ken Kranrod, P. Biol., followed up his initial concerns with compact fluorescent lightbulbs, with 2 links: 1) a Global TV show reports CFLs make people sick, and are a source of dirty energy: http://www.globaltv.com/globaltv/globalshows/16x9/index.html
Click the link to Past Shows and select Sunday January 4th episode;

and 2) an article presenting a comparison between the various lightbulb choices available to consumers: Corporate Knights Winter 2009 Issue 26 bright ideas – best bulbs by Victoria Goodday. You'll find it at http://www.corporateknights.ca/special-reports/71-green-consumer-guide (on the top) along with other guides, or as a pdf on the ASPB website at http://www.aspb.ab.ca/bios/additional-articles
For more articles like this, you may subscribe to Corporate Knights by going to www.corporateknights.ca/subscribe or calling 416-203-4674 x3.

Ngaio Hotte, P. Biol., submitted 2 articles of interest:
1) From Government of Canada Backgrounder: Regulatory Package for Infrastructure Projects Under The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act: http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&xml=2013C494-3F25-40F2-B934-1A63145F5247

2) "Tories place two-year waiver on assessments"
Minister cites need to create jobs, stimulate economy in broadening exemptions from federal environmental regulations
http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20090317.wassess17/EmailBNStory/National/home>

Laurie Hamilton, P. Biol., thought professional biologists should check out this paper that discusses TILMA and AIT (as it relates to engineers, but still similar) just for interest. http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/weekly/Toward_Timely_Implementation_of_TILMA--Consulting_Engineers_BC--January_12_2009.pdf.

She also submitted this article for your interest: The objective ecologist: no saving whales here by E.A.Johnson and D.R.Charlton from the Calgary Herald. The pdf can be viewed by going to the ASPB website: http://www.aspb.ab.ca/bios/additional-articles.

Linda Zimmerling, P. Biol., enjoyed the article suggested by Laurie above, and spoke to the author, E.A. Johnson. He then submitted an article that Linda found very timely and thought professional biologists from a variety of disciplines would find interesting. Please read E.A.Johnson and K.Miyanishi Creating New Landscapes and Ecosystems – The Alberta Oilsands in Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. 1134:120-145 (2008) by following the link to the ASPB website: http://www.aspb.ab.ca/bios/additional-articles.

"Alberta Sustainable Resource Development has released Alberta's Strategy for the Management of Species at Risk (2009-2014); it provides direction and identifies priorities for the next five years for Albertans and Alberta government staff involved in species at risk recovery teams, advisory committees, and project partnerships. For more information, please visit the ASRD website at: http://srd.alberta.ca/fishwildlife/speciesatrisk/strategy2009/default.aspx

Announcements/Updates

ASPB Annual General Meeting will be held on April 15, 2009 at the Calgary Zoo from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. See website for further details www.aspb.ab.ca

ASPB Elections: Note that you must use the AMENDED ballot (sent separately from the information package) when voting for upcoming Director's positions. If you have any questions please contact ASPB at pbiol@aspb.ab.ca